REMARKS

Supplemental to the response filed on April 6, 2005, applicant would like to further amend the claims in this application to clarify when the gas containing nitrogen is The above amendments mean that nitrogen is not introduced. necessary for removing the surface oxide from the copper interconnect and hydrogen is not necessary for forming the SiN cap.

Consideration of this further amendment and allowance of the claims are respectfully requested.

The Commissioner is hereby authorized in this, concurrent, and future replies, to charge payment or credit any overpayment to Deposit Account No. 25-0120 for any additional fees required under 37 C.F.R. § 1.16 or under 37 C.F.R. § 1.17.

Respectfully submitted,

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TWP/lk